

**STILLWATER COUNTY
COMMISSIONER MINUTES**

<p>Notice: These minutes reflect the proceedings of the Board of County Commissioners. The official minutes are on file with the Clerk and Recorder MCA 7-4-2611(2)(b).</p>
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**REGULAR MEETING
September 7, 2021
6:30 p.m. Absarokee Community Roundtable**

PRESENT	Commissioners Mark Crago, Chair, Tyrel Hamilton, Steve Riveland, (via phone), members, Shannon Fisher Admin Assistant. Others Present: Kevin Ray, Road & Bridge; Joe Morse Finance; Citizens: Maureen Davey, Amanda Ferster, Colleen Weast, Jackie Walker, Janel Brunckhorst, John Simmons, Shari Desaveur, Larry Barch, Kathy Barch.
PLEDGE	Commissioner Crago opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.
MINUTES	August 10, 2021. Commissioner Hamilton MOVED to approve the minutes as presented. Commissioner Crago SECONDED . No discussion. <u>Motion passed unanimously.</u>
CLAIMS	107865 through 107968 in the amount of \$618,595.88. Commissioner Hamilton MOVED to approve the claims as presented. Commissioner Crago SECONDED . No discussion. <u>Motion passed unanimously.</u>
ANNOUNCEMENTS	Commissioner Crago read the attached memo from the Fire Warden regarding the current fire season.
CONSENT AGENDA	<u>DES/Fire Warden</u> A) Recommendation to appoint Amanda Ferster to the LEPC <u>City/County Airport</u> A) Assignment of Airport Lease <u>Solid Waste</u> A) Beartooth Electric additional charge to change out to a larger transformer
FILE ITEMS	<u>Clerk & Recorder</u> A) Report for the month of August in the amount of \$14,959.14 <u>Justice Court</u> A) Report for the month of August in the amount of \$12,052.50 Commissioner Hamilton MOVED to consent to the consent agenda and file the file items. Commissioner Crago SECONDED . No discussion. <u>Motion passed unanimously.</u>
REGULAR BUSINESS	<u>Finance</u> A) Resolution amending FY 2022 budget. Commissioner Hamilton MOVED to adopt Resolution 2021-22 a resolution amending FY 2022 budget. Commissioner Crago SECONDED . Discussion – Maureen Davey stated that she attended the preliminary budget draft but did not go to the final draft. Last year the mills went up significantly and it looked like they did again this year. Maureen went on to state that she thought that maybe the county would give the taxpayers some relief and not levy all the mills. Maureen asked all the mills

will be levied? Commissioner Crago replied that all the mills are being levied. Maureen then stated that she is in agriculture and they have really struggled and with the pandemic this last year, businesses and residents have struggled and she was hoping that the county wouldn't levy all their mills and give the taxpayers some relief this year. We are very fortunate to live in Stillwater County and that the value of the mills have increased significantly, mainly because of the mine and new buildings and wishes that the Commissioners would not levy all the mills. John Simmons asked if there was a copy of the budget meeting he could receive. Commissioner Crago replied that there is a copy of the budget in the Clerk & Records Office available for public viewing. John also asked that at one time he had heard the Commission had struggled to have a meeting due to COVID and if they met on everything. Commissioner Crago replied that COVID did not stop the Commission from having business meetings. Motion passed unanimously.

B) Fix Mill levies for FY 2021-22. Commissioner Hamilton **MOVED** to adopt Resolution 2021-23, a resolution fixing the mill levies for FY21-22. Commissioner Riveland **SECONDED**. Discussion – Maureen Davey stated that going back to the other resolution, she noticed that on the signature page, Commissioner Shupak's signature line is on it, is there a corrected copy of the resolution. Commissioner Crago thanked Maureen for pointing that out and stated that it will be fixed. Motion passed unanimously.

DES/Fire Warden

A) Mobile EOC Policy. Commissioner Hamilton **MOVED** to approve the Mobile EOC Policy. Commissioner Riveland **SECONDED**. Discussion – Commissioner Crago explained that this is a policy for a grant funded emergency response trailer. EOC stands for emergency operations center. This is a new trailer and this policy lays out the procedure for the use of trailer by other agencies should the need arise. Maureen Davey asked if there will be two trailers now. Commissioner Crago replied that the county will get rid of the other trailer once the new one arrives. Motion passed unanimously.

Absarokee Sewer

A) Loan disbursement report in the amount of \$165,600.00. Commissioner Hamilton **MOVED** to approve the loan disbursement report in the amount of \$165,600.00. Commissioner Riveland **SECONDED**. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Economic Development

A) Absarokee area merchants – Snowflake Festival community grant application. Commissioner Hamilton **MOVED** to approve the Absarokee area merchants - Snowflake Festival community grant application. Commissioner Riveland **SECONDED**. Discussion – Commissioner Hamilton stated that the grant amount is for \$5000.00. Shari DeSaver explained that the Absarokee Snowflake festival is in its 14th year. The Absarokee area merchants formed the festival to raise awareness about what the local merchants have in to for shopping and to shop local. The snowflakes were handcrafted several years ago and some of them don't light and some don't seat properly. It would be approximately \$4800.00 to purchase all new snowflakes. Motion passed unanimously.

B) Fishtail Community Center – Fishtail Park community grant application. Commissioner Hamilton **MOVED** to approve the Fishtail Community Center – Fishtail Park community grant application in the amount of \$5000.00. Commissioner Riveland **SECONDED**. Discussion – Commissioner Crago explained that the Fishtail Community Center intends to replace the archway that was damaged during Shakespeare in the park this summer and to move the fence to the property line and the outlets along the new fence line as well. Motion passed unanimously.

C) Rapelje School – playground equipment community grant application. Commissioner Hamilton **MOVED** to table the Rapelje School – playground equipment community grant application. Commissioner Riveland **SECONDED**. Discussion – Commissioner Hamilton noted that this is tabled that there were two grants from this area and that there may be more funding available with the incoming wind development plant for the Rapelje School District specifically. Commissioner Crago added that this started with the community rock project.

The Commission felt that the communities deserved a chance to decide how the money could be better spent. Each community would receive one \$5000.00 grant. There were two applications from the Rapelje area. The Rapelje School could better benefit from the wind development impact fees. Motion passed unanimously.

D) Lake Basin Seniors dba Stockman Cafe community grant application. Commissioner Hamilton **MOVED** to approve the Lake Basin Seniors dba Stockman Cafe community grant application in the amount of \$5000.00. Commissioner Riveland **SECONDED**. Discussion – Commissioner Hamilton noted that this is for efforts to reopen that Stockman Cafe. During the remodeling process there have been issues and this will help them finish and to hopefully open in 2021. Commissioner Crago added that while it is the Stockman Café it is also serves as the community center for Rapelje. Maureen Davey asked how many grants can the community request. Commissioner Hamilton replied that there is only one grant per community available at this time. This is why the Rapelje School request was tabled and not approved. John Simmons added that the Commission would do well to support the communities. An unnamed person asked if the grants will be available next year as well. Commissioner Hamilton replied that it still being discussed if this will be an annual or every other year grant or what the future of the grants would be. So far there have been four applications and there may be more coming in. The discussion will continue as to whether or not this will be a revolving community development plan. Commissioner Crago added that positive feedback and utilization of the grant funds will help solidify the need to continue the grants. Economic Development funds from the metal mines fund are being used to fund the community grants. These projects are all good projects and will benefit the communities. Maureen Davey asked if these organizations qualify for foundation money from Absarokee or Columbus and that may be an option for them. Maureen stated that she would like to apply on behalf of Stillwater Golf and would they be eligible for that. Commissioner Hamilton replied that there is a grant available for the Columbus community. Commissioner Riveland added that he did not know if Stillwater Golf would qualify for the grant as it is a limited membership organization and the facility is open for the public to use. This would require some further legal research. Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON COUNTY BUSINESS – None heard.

With no further comments heard the meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

APPROVED BY: /s/ Mark Crago, Commissioner Chairman

ATTEST: Heidi L. Stadel, Clerk and Recorder